

MILITARY-NGO COLLABORATION IN HIV/AIDS INTERVENTIONS

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ABSTRACT

FHI allocated funds to expand efforts in Thailand to prevent HIV transmission in vulnerable population especially mobile groups in border areas. AFRIMS-RTA component started to collaborate with FHI-Thailand in efforts to implement HIV/AIDS behavior change interventions among RTA personnel in Kanchanaburi province located along the Thai/Myanmar border in the west of Thailand. In order to understand current situation among RTA personnel in Kanchanaburi, a rapid assessment was undertaken to assess risks. It was found that the military personnel were still at significant risks in terms of a shift in sexual networks, insufficient HIV/AIDS knowledge and source of information, lower rate of condom use with non-commercial sexual partners, barriers to condom use and inappropriate STI treatment. The findings confirmed that the military personnel needed HIV/AIDS interventions. The interventions focused beyond the sex sector and aimed at reducing the identified risks and associated factors, increasing access to condoms particularly in the remote area, building the capacity of key agencies to manage HIV/AIDS interventions, and mobilizing potential military and civilian resources to support the implementation of HIV/AIDS interventions.

14th Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference, Brisbane, Australia, 9-14 May 2004